The Right Usage of Punctuation Marks

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Introduction

### What are punctuation marks? How do they help us understand what we are reading and writing?

### Punctuation is used to create sense, clarity and stress in sentences. You use punctuation marks to structure and organize your writing. The most common of these are the period, the comma, the exclamation mark, the question mark, the colon and semi-colon, the quote, the apostrophe, the hyphen and dash, and parentheses and brackets. Capital letters are also used to help us organize meaning and to structure the sense of our writing.

Using punctuation marks really make a difference!

Now, the rules are simple. Workingin groups of three, you will look for the answers to the questions below in the websites given (under “Resources”). Read the questions and websites carefully. Write down your answers and be ready to discuss these with the rest of the class. Afterwards, answer the Big Question. Choose one member to present your output. Be sure to work as a team.

Questions

1. What is a comma and when is it used?
2. What is an exclamation mark and what is its function?
3. What is the difference between a colon and a semi-colon?
4. Use , .  ; ' or :

1. Maria has two brothers Robert and Miguel.

2. The kids toys were stolen.

3. Ada teaches Spanish Marie  English.

4. Hector loves baseball Rafa soccer Ruth basketball and Ana football.

5. My mother always says "There are two things you can't avoid taxes and death

5. Punctuation Exercise

1. When a friend dies part of yourself dies too.

2. We took photographs of the patron saint of nail-biters the Venus de Milo.

3. Picture this a Neanderthal man deep in the forest gorges on the yummies of his time fruits berries anything sweet and pluckable.

4. Last week we read The Catbird Seat a short story by James Thurber.

5. Our three children Larry Curly and Moe have decided to enter show business.

6. When in doubt mumble when in trouble delegate.

7. An Americans devotion to McDonald's rests in part on uniformities associated with all McDonald's restaurants setting architecture food ambience acts and utterances.

8. Some players hit the ball and stand dejected waiting for it to land others turn away and leave it to the caddy.

9. Dynamite was lavishly used and many of San Franciscos proudest structures were crumbled by man himself into ruins but there was no withstanding the onrush of the flames.

10. Lila who lives in a trailer with a parakeet and some scrappy dogs and cats has been the town fire warden for almost 30 years.

Big Question

Instructions: Correct the passage below by applying the correct punctuation marks.

 *perhaps you dont always need to use commas periods colons etc to make sentences clear when i am in a hurry tired cold lazy or angry i sometimes leave out punctuation marks grammar is stupid i can write without it and dont need it my uncle Harry once said he was not very clever and i never understood a word he wrote to me i think ill learn some punctuation not too much enough to write to Uncle Harry he needs some help*

Resources

Overview of Punctuation Marks

<http://www.thefreedictionary.com/punctuation+mark>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Punctuation>

**Kinds of Punctuation Marks and Their Functions**

<http://www.edufind.com/english/punctuation/comma.php>

<http://www.rogerdarlington.me.uk/punctuation.html>

<http://www.rong-chang.com/grammar/punctuation.htm>

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/grammar/punctuation/>

<http://www.writingforward.com/grammar/punctuation-marks/how-to-use-a-semicolon>